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## Jorgensen Outraged at Walker's Second Attempt to Kill SeniorCare

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Milton Lawmaker Again Launching Petition Drive to Save Popular Prescription Program

MADISON – State Representative Andy Jorgensen (D-Milton) expressed outrage today at Governor Walker's budget proposal which would eliminate SeniorCare as we know it, forcing Wisconsinites on to Medicare Part D, a move which would reduce their coverage and increasing their costs, and defunding SeniorCare by \$15 million. Governor Walker first tried to kill SeniorCare in his 2011 budget, a proposal that was met with great public opposition. Jorgensen organized his fellow Assembly Democrats to run a statewide petition drive, gathering and delivering 15,000 signatures to Republican leaders, pressuring them to save the popular prescription drug program.

"What is wrong with Governor Walker? Did he not get the message the first time, or doesn't he care?" asked Jorgensen. "The people of Wisconsin deserve access to prescription drugs at the best price – and SeniorCare delivers that better than any other program in the country. Governor Walker is pushing a plan that will hurt seniors financially – and that stands to impact their health and well-being. It's almost criminal."

Jorgensen notes that SeniorCare provides low-cost, life-saving prescription drugs to approximately 85,000 Wisconsin residents aged 65 or older. Unlike Part D, SeniorCare has a simple enrollment process, a \$30 annual enrollment fee, income-based deductibles and co-payments of just \$5 for generic medications. SeniorCare has no strict enrollment period or penalty and no gaps in coverage. Most participants save hundreds of dollars each year by utilizing SeniorCare's prescription drug benefits instead of Medicare Part D.

Through SeniorCare, the State of Wisconsin is also able to save taxpayers' money, because, unlike the federal government, it can negotiate the lowest prices for prescription drugs. That bargaining process has been so effective that in 2009, the average cost to support a SeniorCare enrollee was \$588 a year, less than half the \$1,690 cost to subsidize a Part D participant. That difference accounts for an annual savings of more than \$90 million dollars.

"SeniorCare saves lives and it saves us all money. It's one of those rare 'win-wins'," said Jorgensen. "I will do everything in my power to keep it up and running, and invite all of my colleagues – Democrat and Republican – to join me in the fight against Governor Walker's misguided proposal."

Jorgensen says he's reached out to Governor Walker and requested a meeting to discuss SeniorCare. He's also in touch with AARP and the Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups, and invites any interested legislator to again circulate petition sheets alongside him to try to save SeniorCare from Governor Walker. You can request a petition sheet by emailing Rep. Jorgensen at <a href="mailto:rep.jorgensen@legis.wi.gov">rep.jorgensen@legis.wi.gov</a> or by calling his office at (608) 266-3790.

"They say history repeats itself, but never in a million years did I think we'd be fighting this battle again," said Jorgensen. "We will fight, and I will hope and pray for the same outcome."